

16 OCT 1960

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Vanderbilt University Alumni Association
Nashville 5, Tennessee

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Dear

I have received your thoughtful letter of 30 August concerning certain aspects of the Powers case. You may appreciate that many of the points on which you comment are still in the classified field. In addition, even though the trial by the Soviets is over, Mr. Powers is still a prisoner in their hands. Hence, we must be careful in our comments that we do nothing to make his personal situation more difficult.

I would like to note that Mr. Powers was held over one hundred days in solitary confinement without access to family, friends, his own legal advisors, or any United States Embassy representative prior to his trial. Undoubtedly the Soviets could have indoctrinated him during that period to say many things they desired to have come out at the trial. This they can accomplish effectively, even short of all of the techniques of "brainwashing."

The service performed by the men who participated in the U-2 program was extremely valuable for the security of this country. They were chosen on the basis of past training and other technical, mental, and ideological qualifications, together with a willingness to serve and full knowledge of the dangers inherent in the task.

Arrangements have been made to handle Mr. Powers' salary for the future in accordance with his legal rights under his contract and the provisions of applicable statutes.

While the foregoing may not answer fully the points you have raised, I hope you will find it helpful. At this time I do not feel that it would be in the interests of the prisoner, Mr. Powers, or of national security to say more.

Sincerely,

SIGNS
Allen W. Dulles
Director

Orig & 1 - Addressee
1 - DCI
1 - DDCI
1 - ER
1 - IG
1 - Asst. C/DPD

General Counsel
Counsel

OGC:JGO:amc

cc: Honorable Albert Gore, United States Senate

Honorable Albert Gore, House of Representatives

Approved For Release 2005/04/21 : CIA-RDP63T00245R000100240016-7

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